

C O M M U N I T Y N E W S

Space walk: *students create journey through time*

By Nicole Cloutier

After nearly two years of searching, clipping, cutting and pasting, six students from League City Intermediate School are now showing off their expansive timeline of space exploration milestones.

The "Space Exploration Timeline" is a 355-foot-long list of dates and anniversaries spanning from 4,000 BC into the 21st century. It includes photos of the first recorded reference to space on the Great Wall of China in 221 BC and proceeds through birth dates of native Texas astronauts such as Rick Husband and Bernard Harris to anticipated Mars habitation beyond 2012. An immense collection, the timeline runs down both sides of hallways on two floors and includes nearly 700 visuals, photos and trivia questions.

"The project really took off," said Texas History teacher Darla Andrus. She initiated creation of the timeline after a visit to the "Electronic Classroom" at JSC, which provides teachers with ideas for space education.

"I was happy to see the students get excited about it," continued Andrus. "My fear is that children in the Bay Area aren't really aware of the developments happening right here at JSC. I want to be one of those teachers who is making sure the students understand that history is being made, right here, right now."

Some of the team members were already big fans of the space program, but their work on the timeline further inspired them.

"I've always admired the people who do this work everyday," said Nikki Fox, pointing to the many faces and icons along the space timeline. Fox is an eighth grader who helped with the project and now wants to

be an astronaut. "I look at the timeline every single day and I want to teach the other students what I've learned from it."

To make the timeline more educational and involve other students, the team included trivia questions throughout the timeline and planned a contest to name a "Space Trivia Winner." Most of the trivia and dates were gathered using a variety of sources such as *The Space Almanac* and the Internet, as well as library research and JSC resources.

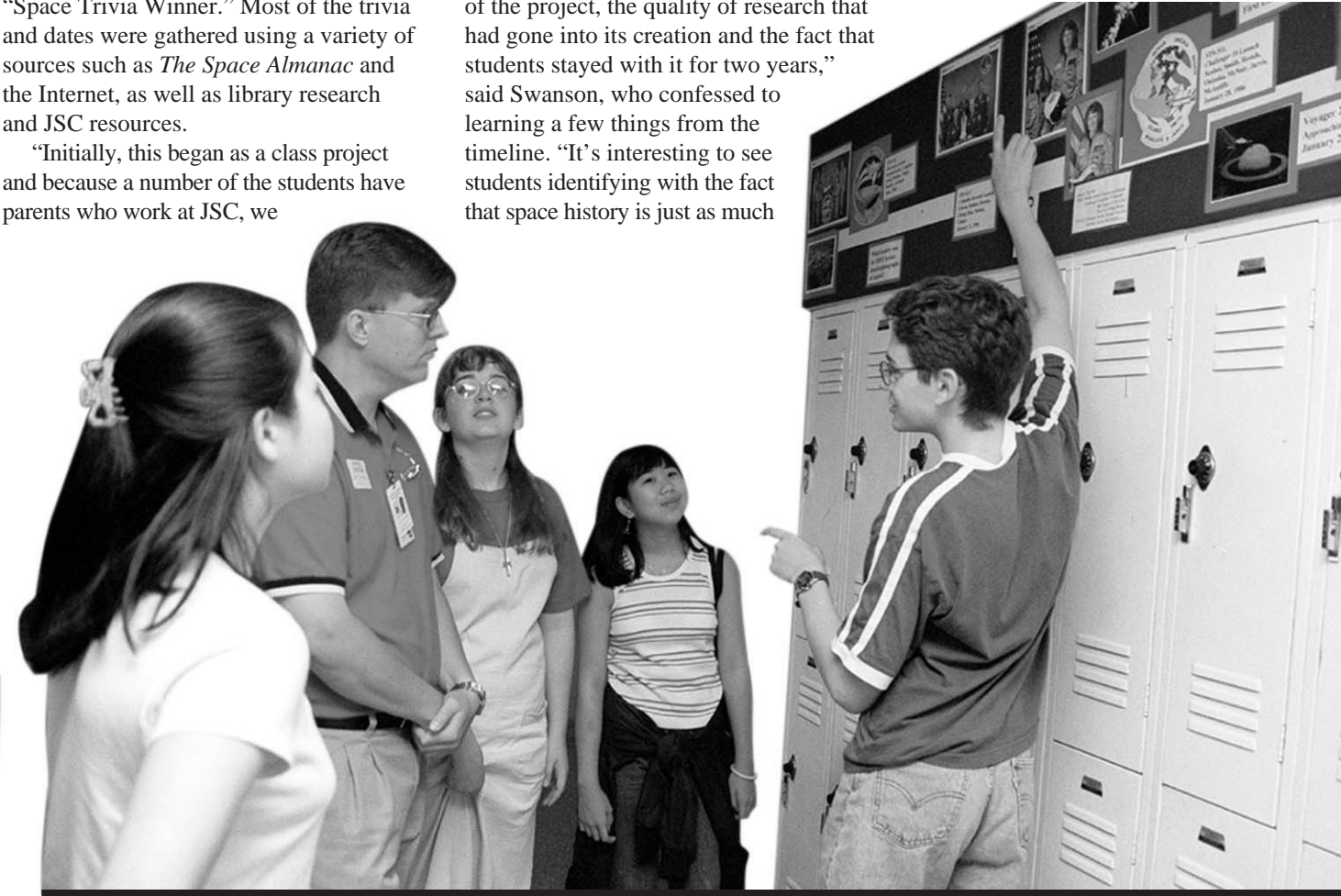
"Initially, this began as a class project and because a number of the students have parents who work at JSC, we

were able to get additional materials that way," added Andrus.

Glen Swanson, historian for JSC's Information Science Branch, received a guided tour of the timeline by the students in May.

"I was really impressed by the scope of the project, the quality of research that had gone into its creation and the fact that students stayed with it for two years," said Swanson, who confessed to learning a few things from the timeline. "It's interesting to see students identifying with the fact that space history is just as much

a part of our heritage as other areas of historical study. Especially with the coming of the new millennium, they can look back, beyond this past century, and see how far we've moved forward in the exploration of space." ■



League City Intermediate School timeline team members guide JSC Historian Glen Swanson through their Space Exploration Timeline. Shown, from left, are: Nan Li, Swanson, Heather Perkins, Linda Diep, and Michael Perkins. Not pictured: Nikki Fox and Adrian Clements who also contributed to the timeline project.

AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK TEAM NASA *Facing the New Millennium—Together!*

JSC civil service and contractor partners will host the 6th annual "American Heritage Week" observance June 28 - July 2, 1999. What started as a one-day celebration presented by JSC civil servant employees in 1994 is now a week-long celebration presented by Team NASA. American Heritage Week celebrates the similarities that bring individual members of Team NASA together, while simultaneously celebrating the differences through which we learn and grow together.

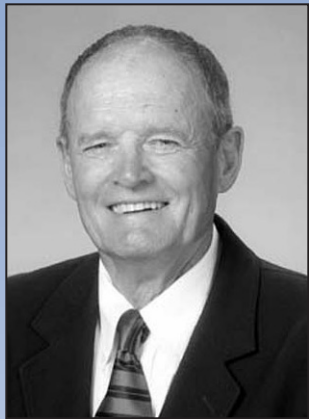
A host of educational and entertaining performances and exhibits is scheduled throughout the week in JSC's Bldg. 3 cafeteria. Once again, a grand finale at the Gilruth Center on July 1 will include free refreshments, art exhibits, and simultaneous cultural performances in both the ballroom and gym. During the week, and especially during the parade and grand finale, employees are encouraged to wear clothing depicting their heritage.

Again this year, we will have the children's art activity. Children ages 2 - 15 may submit entries depicting the theme, "Team NASA: Facing the New Millennium - Together!" Entries will be divided into three age categories (ages 2 - 6, 7 - 10, and 11 - 15). A panel of judges will select winners. A flyer to be used in this activity will be distributed to JSC civil service and contractor personnel soon.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks on all committees. The exhibits committee needs volunteers to set up, staff, and remove exhibits throughout the week, and is also encouraging employees to bring NASA Apollo era memorabilia to be displayed. The publicity committee needs volunteers from each directorate and contractor company to help distribute information publicizing the event. The entertainment committee needs volunteers to help with the many entertainers who will perform during the week and at the grand finale. ■

JSC employees honored at public service recognition banquet

Three JSC employees were among those recognized May 5 during a luncheon at Brady's Landing restaurant. They were cited for their accomplishments and performance at work and in the community through volunteer and outreach activities.



Al Crews

to Melody Nation of the Center Operations Directorate-Partnering for Land Use-Agriculture Science Center Laboratory. Assisting him with the awards presentation was Suzan Rush, Houston FBA chair, who presented Al Crews of the Flight Crew Operations Directorate his award as the winner in the Length of Service category for his 49 years of federal service.

Tom Erkenwick of the Mission Operations Directorate received a certificate recognizing his nomination in the Professional/Scientific category.

The FBA received 18 nominations from 10 different agencies. ■



Melody Nation

The Houston Federal Executive Board and Federal Business Association honored the employees at the annual luncheon along with workers from other local federal agencies. Bob Nicholas of KPRC Channel 2 provided an entertaining commentary as master of ceremonies.

Houston Federal Executive Board President Dr. Douglas Lipka presented the Community Partnership Award



Tom Erkenwick

For details or to volunteer to assist any committee, employees may call the following committee chairs...

| Committee | Chairpersons | Extension |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Parade | Estella Gillette | 30600 |
| Exhibits | Jessie Hendrick/Georgia Way | 31203/30595 |
| Publicity | Marilyn Donald | 34145 |
| Entertainment | Patricia Burke | 30606 |
| Refreshments | Lupita Armendariz | 30604 |
| Town Criers | June Larsen | 36080 |
| Children's Activity | Paula Scheffman | 30600 |
| Team NASA | Dee Williams | 42413 |